



# *The* **Chinquapin**

VOLUME 10 Issue 2

/ˈchi[nq]-ki-ˈpin/

Winter 2010/11

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

## **NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER FOR THE 2010/11 SEASON**

**To continue receiving  
our newsletter (starting  
with the Spring 2011  
edition), you need to be  
a paid-up 2010/11  
Nature Society member.**

**Please check your  
address label to see if  
you need to renew your  
membership.**

The membership season begins September 2010 and ends in August 2011.

There are four membership levels. General Membership is free and with it, you get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month. Associate Membership cost \$5 per year and gets you the above benefit along with four newsletters, "The Chinquapin", mailed to your household quarterly. Supporting Membership is \$10 & up per year and gets you the General and Associate benefits plus listed as a Supporting Member in our newsletter. Patron Membership is \$50 & up per year and gets you the General and Associate benefits plus two private walks a year, listed as a patron in our fundraiser program &

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **What We Have Been Doing 2009/10**

by Bob Muller

Our tenth season of programs was extremely successful. Attendance for both our nature walk and speaker programs was the highest ever.

There is good news for Cummingston this past year. We received federal block grant money for drainage in the west side of the park. It was completed last winter. The only down side was a dry spring and summer. There was no water above grade in the park so we do not know yet how effective the drains will be. One large Cummingston Park Eagle Scout project was completed this past summer by Lew Jackson of Troop 1444 (Centerline). He had his workers move the park entrance several feet to the east and put the park sign back up that was cut down by vandals several years ago. Steel backed poles were used this time to hold up the sign up. It will now be a lot more difficult to vandalize. A tremendous number of very heavy logs left over from the Crawfish Pond project were moved to line the main trail leading to the pond. Tree identification tags were added along Leafdale Trail. The "tree identification" is an ongoing project at both parks and the arboretum. A culvert was added where the north end of Leafdale trail leads to the pond observation area. This was done so no one has to jump across a drainage ditch to get to the pond. We now have a more inviting entrance and a lined main trail back to the pond. The drainage problem will need to be solved before putting more effort into Cummingston's trail development. We are hoping for a wet spring in 2011 so we can check the drainage.

Tenhaven Woods also has had great things happen to it this past season thanks to other Eagle candidates choosing to do

their projects for us. Stephen Kaurala's (Troop 1610) Eagle project involved spreading 350 cubic yards of dirt on to low trails that were too wet to use in the spring. Eric Manidock's (Troop 1610) project included the installation of trail sign posts in the park and trail maps attached to the fences at the Lexington and Normandy entrances. They really dressed up the look of the park. Jimmy Kipp's (Troop 1627) and his crew reworked and relined the Scout trail along with putting up tree identification tags along the main trails. We have received many compliments and thank you's for putting up these tags. Aside from the Eagle projects, we had Perry Gentner from Machine Works enlarge Dragonfly Pond. He took all the extra dirt (including the dirt left over from the original pond project) and created a trail that begins at the Pond Trail and juts out into the pond, forming a pond viewing area. Don Drife, the Nature Society president, jokingly told Perry this was called the Peninsula Trail and therefore it should be shaped it like the Lower Peninsula. We laughed. If you take a look at it now, you will see that Perry made the west end of the peninsula look roughly like a mitten, the same shape as Michigan's Lower Peninsula. We have had fun with it at children's programs by asking them to stand in the positions where Michigan cities would be located. Who would have thought we would be teaching geography. Perry also moved our bird feeder to the edge of the pond. This was a task we would have had trouble with as it has a 600 pound cement base. We know this because Don Drife, Nature Society botanist, helped install it when he was in high

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

school. We will be filling it all winter with birdseed. This should be a great spot to watch birds. We had two nighttime bat and insect programs this summer. Attendance was not very good, but they are programs that we will continue to develop. We now have teachers from the middle school giving extra credit to students for attending both nature walk and speaker programs. This has considerably increased the number of young people attending our programs.

Looking at Tenhave Woods, we have for all practical purposes achieved the goal we set for ourselves when the Nature Society was first founded. Parks are saved when people use them and therefore are valuing them. Everyday, there are people walking the trails and enjoying the park. The park looks natural and at the same time inviting. It is a great place for people to escape the city for awhile.

The arboretum is coming along slowly. John DeLisle, our Vice President, has also become our Arboretum Stewardship director. His background as a horticulturalist is helping immensely with the development of our arboretum. A lot of work is still needed but continuous progress is being made. In 2008 & 2009, several invasive plant removal days took place. Plants removed included mostly buckthorn, honeysuckle and garlic mustard. By May of this year, one section of the arboretum was ready for planting. In May, 15 people donated over 100 native plants (30 plant species) that were planted by eight volunteers. The Nature Society's goal of having all of Michigan's deciduous trees either in the arboretum or Tenhave is getting closer. We needed 20 species and 10 of them were purchased this past summer. They will be moved into the arboretum next spring. In June, the City of Royal Oak installed a water spigot behind and to the north of the Senior/Community Center. This will make it easier for us to water our new native plants.

Ted Vickers and I were the acting co-Education Directors. This past spring, Chris Ethridge stepped in this to become our official Education director. He has been doing a great job. Chris has started developing programs for a home school group. Several programs are already

planned for the 2010/11 season. We also hosted a June field trip at Tenhave for the entire Jane Adams 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Elementary School. We put on a pond life programs for about 75 children. They were split into three groups, with each group staying at the park for about 45 minutes. Many of their parents and teachers also came along. Jimmy Kipps, a recent Royal Oak High School graduate and future entomologist, took half of the children from each group while I took the remaining half. Having smaller groups made it a lot easier to teach the kids about pond life. It turned out to be a great morning with all of those kids learning about the creepy crawlers that live in Dragonfly Pond. Programs for school children, was one of the Nature Society's original goals. For many years, we had not been able to get these programs started, but, we now seem to be off and running.

Don Drife has observed the following bird activity for the past season. According to Don, both parks serve as refuges for migrating and wintering birds. Tenhave again had its wintering flock of Robins and for the second year in a row a Hermit Thrush also wintered. Warblers, Kinglets, Vireos, Flycatchers and other birds use the parks as a stopping point while migrating. Last fall a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were seen hunting above Tenhave. An adult Goshawk flew over the arboretum during a walk for the "physical challenged", giving the participants a spectacular view. We found the first crow's nest in Tenhave that we have seen in several years. They nested regularly in the woods until the West Nile Virus outbreak decimated the population. It was a good sign to see them return. We also found Robin, Redwing Blackbird, Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpecker, Chickadee, Blue Jay and Cardinal nests. Tenhave supports at least two nesting pair of Screech Owls. We had a pair of Bluebirds by the pond but they did not appear to nest. Cedar Waxwings put on a show every evening during July and August when they came to hunt insects and drink from the pond.

We invite you to come out and take a walk in the parks. They are better than ever with more improvements planned for the 2010/11 season.

*(Membership continued from page 1)*

newsletter, one free ticket to our annual fundraiser and an invitation to our Day Before the Dream Cruise Picnic at Gunn Dyer Park.

If you want to be an Associate, Supporting or Patron member, please fill out a membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Nature Society. Please list other household members you want included as Nature Society members (no extra cost).

Through your donation, you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide. Dona-

tions are always tax deductible.

If you only want to be a General Member, please e-mail us the information asked for on our membership form (p.5) and send that information to: [naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us](mailto:naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us).

Your membership whether General, Associate, Supporting or Patron, will help to strengthen this organization.

Non-members are still welcome to come to our monthly speaker programs as well as our nature walks. Those programs and walks are, and always will be, free to anyone who enjoys learning about nature.

ALL SPEAKER PROGRAMS AND NATURE WALKS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE.  
PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

## SPEAKER PROGRAMS

*Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs are held at the **Royal Oak Middle School** (formerly Dondero High School). The school is located at 709 N. Washington, between 11 Mile Road & Catalpa (11 ½ Mile). The meeting/program will be held in the "Gathering Place" or auditorium, both of which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. At our monthly Wednesday meetings from September to June, we present speaker programs that are usually slide shows focusing on various natural history topics. If you watch nature programs on PBS or the Discovery Channel, this is better because you can meet with the speakers afterwards and ask questions. The general meeting begins around **7:25 pm**, with the speaker program following several minutes later.*

**"From the Goodwin's of Royal Oak to Tenhave Woods, the History of a Piece of Land"** is being held on **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Have you ever wondered how Tenhave Woods managed to escape development? We researched the history of all those that have owned this property and the story is amazing. Natural history is always tied to human history; Tenhave Woods is Cromwell Goodwin's woodlot from 1823. What was its connection to John Dodge? Today it is an island of nature in our neighborhoods, but how long has it been an island? Come and learn from Bob Muller, Royal Oak Nature Society Naturalist, about Tenhave Woods's history from the land's first purchase from the United States to the nature park we have today.

**"A Visit to PrairieEarth: The Flint Hills"** is being held on **January 5<sup>th</sup>**. Most of the Tall Grass Prairie ecosystem once present in the United States is gone, courtesy of the plow blade. Ron Gamble, an Environmental Engineer working for Huron-Clinton Metroparks and Faye Stoner, Naturalist with Washtenaw County Parks will dis-

cuss why the Tall Grass remains in part of Kansas and Oklahoma. They will also take a look at the spectacular fall season botany and some of the animals of the region.

**"North American Bird Nests"** is being held on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. LuAnn Linker from Wild Birds Unlimited has been providing informative and entertaining wild bird education programs to various groups in surrounding communities for over 10 years. Her last visit to the Nature Society was five years ago when she did a program about attracting & feeding our local birds. Join us this time as she talks about their nests. She will talk about & show photos of five different types of bird nests that are constructed by our native and migratory birds. You will see the different nest types, styles, materials, locations, nesting behavior and other features that make bird nests unique. With many of our native birds returning from their winter stopovers in the next month or so, this is a good time to learn more about these avian creatures and the nests that they build.

### NATURE SOCIETY'S 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Our next annual fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011** at the Royal Oak Elk's Club. Please SAVE THE DATE and get more details in our next newsletter (Spring 2011) and also from our website beginning this coming January.

Our fundraising committee is currently trying to find businesses/groups who might be interested in becoming a table sponsor for our April fundraiser. You would have your business/group name displayed on one of the tables and would be able to put your advertising material out in the middle of it. Your business/group name would be prominently shown on signage, in our program guide and in our fall newsletter. As a table sponsor, you would get two free tickets to the fundraiser. Cost is \$100 for a table. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact us at 248-246-3380 & leave a message or e-mail us at [naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us](mailto:naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us).

### PATRON MEMBER'S THANK YOU

A special thank you from the Nature Society goes out to our following Patron members for their generous financial contribution to us:

**Helen & Connie Cost**

**Donna Doyscher**

**Michael, Avelin & Nicole Fournier**

**Nora Iverson & John Talbot**

**Mary, Dennis & Regis Kleiss**

**Lance & Pamela Lindell**

**Bonnie Michalak**

**Gary Smith**

**Richard & Pat Stoll**

**Richard Taylor**



## NATURE WALKS

*There is at least one walk per month with more per month added during the spring wildflower and fall color seasons. An emphasis is put on understanding the different forest types found in our parks. Further information is given on individual plant and animal species, also the geology and human history of the area. Wearing boots while in the parks is recommended in the winter & spring months. Using insect repellent and dressing appropriately is advised from late spring to the end of summer.*

**CUMMINGSTON PARK:** Park & meet at Leafdale & Torquay

**TENHAVE WOODS:** Park in lot at Marais & Lexington Blvd. and meet at the Lexington entrance (300 feet east of parking lot). For the Owl Hoot & Full Moon Walks, park & meet at the Marais & Lexington parking lot.

**“Late Fall Nature Walk”** is being held on Sunday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>**, beginning **2:00 pm** at **Tenhave Woods**. Come and learn about the mammals that live in Tenhave Woods. We will look for signs of these mammals in the park. We also will have skulls and skins to assist us in describing them and showing how they live.

**“Owl Hoot”** is being held at **Cummingston Park** on Friday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>**, **7:30 pm**. Park and meet at Torquay & Leafdale.



We will walk into Cummingston Park and attempt to lure in or have screech & great horned owls answer tape recordings of their calls.

**“Winter Nature Walk”** is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **January 15<sup>th</sup>**, at **2:00 pm**. Park at the Lexington/Marais lot & meet at Lexington entrance. The winter forest is the easiest time to see signs of wildlife (tracks, bird and squirrel nest etc.). Bring binoculars for the birds and we will be keeping an eye out for mammals.

**“Full Moon Walk”** is being held on Friday, **February 18<sup>th</sup>**, beginning **7:30 pm** at **Tenhave Woods**. Park & meet at Lexington/Marais lot.



Experience the woods at a time of day that the park is normally closed. You never know what you may hear and see when the light levels are low. Bring a small flashlight.

## Cromwell Goodwin Headstone Dedication

Cromwell Goodwin was the original owner of the land that now contains Tenhave Woods. Even though the Nature Society couldn't find Cromwell's grave marker, we were pretty sure that he has been buried at the Royal Oak Cemetery for nearly 150 years. After looking through the records, we found out that he was buried next to his wife, Irene. There was a stone slab laying in the ground where he was buried, but there were no markings on it. We felt it was important to make sure he had a proper marker. Because we found out that he served in the War of 1812, we contacted the Veterans Administration to see if we could get a grave marker made for him. They did and it was installed in early September of this year.

Soon after it was placed in the ground, the Royal Oak Historical Commission and the Royal Oak Nature Society hosted a ceremony on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in honor of Cromwell for both his contribution to our city and his service to our young nation. Nearly 20 people attended at the event. Reverend Renee Machinak said a prayer in Cromwell's name. Allan R. Treppa, President of the Michigan Society of the War of 1812 talked a little bit about that war. Bob Muller, Nature Society naturalist

spoke for a few minutes about Cromwell and the Goodwin farm. Two of Royal Oak's High School band members completed the ceremony by playing taps. Bob Muller & Ted Vickers can be seen below unveiling the marker. There are 16 Goodwin's buried in Royal Oak Cemetery who lived on the Royal Oak Township Goodwin farm and who have the Goodwin name and/or their bloodline.



## Nature Society Summer 2010 Fundraising Activities

The Nature Society had two opportunities this past summer to earn some money. One was our annual collection of parking fees at Gunn Dyer Park for the Dream Cruise. We collected money the prior to the Cruise (Friday) from 6 to 9 pm and from 8 am to 8 pm on Dream Cruise Day. On Friday, we also so did a cookout at the park for our volunteer staff. Unfortunately this year at Dream Cruise (Saturday, August 21), it rained a good portion of the day. This drastically cut the number of cars parked at Gunn Dyer. We had about 65 fewer cars parked there this year compared to last year. Our take this year was a little less than \$600.

The Nature Society wants to thank the following people for volunteering their time at this year's Dream Cruise: Bob Muller, Ann Bobiney, Ted Vickers, Ann Holcomb, Mitzi Hoffman, Jack Dougherty, Bonnie Michalak, Don & Joyce Drife, Mary & Dennis Kleiss, and Helen & Connie Cost. Without the help of these volunteers who worked three hour shifts, we would not have been able to man the Gunn Dyer parking lot. Also, a big thank you to Greg Rassel & his crew for getting the park ready for us.

The other event was at Arts, Beats & Eats (A,B & E) that took place in downtown Royal Oak on Labor Day weekend. Anyone who wanted to, was given the opportunity to volunteer to help with parking and earn money for a non-profit group of their choosing. Volunteers earned \$10 per volunteer hour that applied directly to

the group they chose. Volunteers parked for free & were given free admission passes to A,B & E.

My wife, Nancy, and I volunteered to collect money for parking on the last day of the event (Monday) from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the lot just east of the Royal Oak Post Office. It turned out to be a comfortable day for parking duty as it was cloudy with temperatures in the 70's. After we were done, we walked over to A, B & E and spent rest of the afternoon enjoying the festivities. For our effort, the Nature Society received a check for \$90.



Dream Cruise Picnic for Volunteers

PERRY

248.379.8202



DIRT & CONCRETE REMOVAL  
COMPLETE RESIDENTIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT

EXCAVATING | TRENCHING | TRUCKING | GRADING

Heartfelt Thanks to Perry Gentner For Making  
Our Vernal Ponds Become a Reality

4934 Fernlee  
Royal Oak, MI 48073



DIGITAL PUBLISHING &  
PRINT SERVICES  
[www.heathpress.com](http://www.heathpress.com)

Phone: 248.288.5580  
Fax: 248.288.1430  
[printdoctor@heathpress.com](mailto:printdoctor@heathpress.com)

### Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make check out to: **Royal Oak Nature Society**  
MEMO: Membership

Mail completed form & check to:  
**Royal Oak Nature Society**  
1600 N. Campbell Rd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Names (individual/household members): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

1 Year Membership (September-August)

- ☐ General (free)
- ☐ Associate (\$5)
- ☐ Supporting (\$10 & up)
- ☐ Patron (\$50 & up)

## NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

Please contact us if you would like to become actively involved with one or more of our teams:

**Stewardship:** Organizes maintenance, protection and improvements at Cummingston Nature Area, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum in Worden Park East which will in turn enhance the overall park experience in those areas.

**Communications:** Publicizes organizational activities to the general membership and public through various mediums and performs any other forms of communications required by the board.

**Education:** Provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education.

**Fundraising:** Is responsible for the fund-raising efforts of the Nature Society, including the coordinating and organizing of the Annual Spring Fundraiser.

**Programming:** Is responsible for setting up the speaker programs, workshops and all of the nature programs within Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods & the Arboretum.

**Ways & Means:** Investigates means of grant solicitation and then follows through accordingly.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Drife (248-528-0479)

Vice President & Arboretum Stewardship: John DeLisle (248-672-7611)

Treasurer & Ways & Means: Helen Cost (248-549-9423)

Recording Secretary: Nancy Vickers (248-549-5366)

Tenhav Woods Stewardship: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

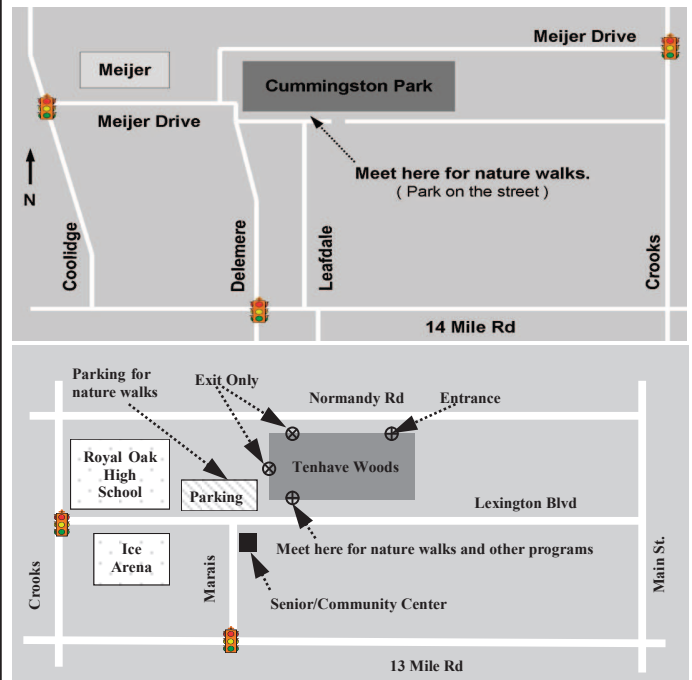
Newsletter: Ted Vickers

Engineer: Richard Stoll

## Our Nature Parks & Senior/Community Center



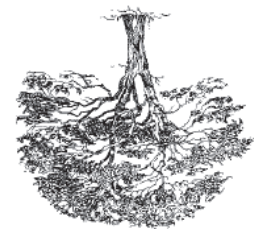
Traffic Light



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park trail maps, please go to our web site (listed below under our tree logo), link on to "Park Locations" and then "Map for park trail locations"

*The Royal Oak Nature Society is a nonprofit education and stewardship group working within the city of Royal Oak's two nature parks, Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park. We are also in the process of creating an arboretum in Worden Park East. Our mission is to foster awareness and usage of these three areas. We accomplish this by providing stewardship for the continuing improvement and maintenance of them plus we offer a wide range of natural history educational programs to the community.*

The Royal Oak Nature Society  
1600 N. Campbell  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-246-3380  
naturesociety@ci.royal-oak.mi.us  
www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/nature



FIRST CLASS MAIL